

### Upward Trend Continues in Postal Receipts

Continuing toward a new all-time high, the postal receipts at the Torrance Postoffice for the month of November totaled \$15,573.39 as compared to \$11,386.20 for November of 1949. The increase for November is about in line with the increases which have been noted there through the year—all of which point to a record year for the local postoffice.

### Sets Christmas Program Sunday

Annual Christmas program of the First Christian Church will be presented by the Church School Department next Sunday evening at 7 in the church sanctuary.

A miscellaneous program of music and Christmas readings will be given by the children in the beginners and primary departments under the direction of Mrs. V. T. Vanderpool and Mrs. E. Pietzke. The small children will have several choir numbers on the Christmas musicale.

The junior department and the Junior High and High School youth will present a Christmas play under the direction of Mrs. Hugh Hood. They will also have several musical numbers.

Following the program, the parents and their children will adjourn to the social hall for a fellowship hour. Refreshments of cookies and coffee will be served.

Sometime during this week, Santa Claus is scheduled to appear on the scene. Teachers and officers of the church school are sponsoring the fellowship hour in honor of parents and children.



**HELPERS . . .** Turning to give a helping hand to moving men with the job of moving the Community Chest Service Center and the YMCA into new quarters at 1103 Sartori avenue last Friday were these willing workers. The Community Chest Center is local headquarters for Veterans Service Center, Family Service, Catholic Welfare Bureau, and the Girl Scouts. The YMCA, not a Community Chest activity, rents space in the same building. Old headquarters was at 1339 Post avenue. Pictured are: Helen Dill, veteran's service counselor; Charlotte Lukes, executive secretary of the YWCA, Moselle Patton, office manager, Dean L. Sears, chairman of the Community Chest drive, and Milton Isbell, executive secretary of the YMCA. (Herald photo).

### Christmas Musical To Be Presented by Foursquare Church

A traditionally beautiful Christmas musical program will be presented by members of the Torrance Foursquare Church, 1807 El Prado, on Sunday evening December 17, according to Arthur Pedersen, pastor. The program, to be staged

at the church, will include choir, instrumental and vocal numbers.

Rev. Alene Pedersen will bring the Christmas message. Treats will be given those attending. A special invitation is extended to the community to visit any of the programs.

### Maybe There Is Somebody Who Doesn't Know

We almost can hear the comment of some 5000 Torrance school children as they read this little squib, "Oh, we knew that weeks ago," but, nevertheless, there may be a few parents who do not know that school is out this Friday.

When the final bell rings on December 15, Torrance school children will begin the annual Christmas vacation of 11 days normally spent in classes.

The bells will chime on Tuesday morning, January 2, summoning the students back to school.

### A&P Employees To Get Xmas \$\$\$

Some 550 employees of the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company will share in the company's pre-holiday \$2,500,000 cash distribution plan, George S. Higi, A&P vice-president, said this week.

All A&P employees throughout the country with six months or more service will be eligible to receive extra compensation, Higi said. The plan was announced in New York recently by John A. Hartford, chairman of the board of A&P.

Last year the company voted \$2,250,000 for the same purpose.

### Quigley Serving on Gunston Hall

Seaman Ralph I. Quigley, USN, is serving aboard the floating drydock USS Gunston Hall. It was revealed this week by the Navy. Quigley's home is at 1543 West 219th street.



**TROPHY DASH . . .** Taking away trophies in behalf of their teams which won the sportsmanship awards in the YMCA-City-sponsored touch football league this fall are, left to right, Mickey Babbitt, Donald Zimkie and Mike Kendall. Presenting the trophies is Dr. R. K. Smith, member of the Board of Education and YMCA board of managers. (Herald photo).

### Tartar Teens To Celebrate School Closing

Members of the Tartar Teen Club will celebrate the closing of school this Saturday evening with a dance in the Torrance Civic Auditorium, according to Miss Doris Avjs, adult supervisor.

Dancing to the music of Don Gordon and his 15-piece orchestra will begin at 8:30 and continue until midnight.

### Counselor Credits Guidance Aid For Drop in Student Failures

A program of guidance, instigated in Torrance schools this year, has resulted in a drop of ninth grade students failing classes from 32 per cent last year to five and one-half per cent this year, the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee was told last Monday noon.

Ivan Malm, boys counselor at Torrance High School, addressing a noon luncheon at the TEAC, said that he could not attribute the lowering of the number of failures to easier grading nor lowered standards, but credited the gain in the number of passing students to the guidance offered students in the ninth grade basic skills classes.

Mrs. Joanna Garver, girls counselor, said the aim of the guidance program is to provide assistance in programming of a high school student's course of study, offering advice on vocational pursuits, treating the special child (both the highly intelligent and the retarded) with special consideration, providing the proper tools for a guidance program (books, aptitude tests, etc.) prevailing upon the services of a trained psychologist when necessary, and suggesting the proper college and course of study for those students intending to attend college.

The entire success of the program, Wallace said, "lies in the confidence in the student for his 'personal advisor,' who must make the student see and analyze his or her own problems—then assist the student in making decisions to solve the problem."

### Rabbit Club to Host State Meet Wednesday

A joint meeting of the Torrance Area Rabbit Club and the California State Rabbit Breeders Association will be held at Atterbury Hall, 4168 Sepulveda boulevard, next Wednesday evening beginning at 8.

A noted judge of rabbits will be present to select the outstanding breeders of fryer-size litters, it was announced. Dancing and refreshments will follow the business meeting.

### If You Crave Mushrooms, Then Buy Them; Don't Pick Wild Ones

Every toadstool is a mushroom and all mushrooms are toadstools and the would-be expert who blithely insists that he can distinguish the poisonous from the edible is gambling with death, says Roy O. Gilbert, M.D., Los Angeles County Health officer.

Although the terms are often used to distinguish the poisonous and non-poisonous varieties of fleshy fungus the names are actually synonymous. The two terms are shape-names, not class-names and any fleshy fungus having a cap or umbrella-like disk atop a stalk fits the description.

Coral fungi, puff balls and tooth fungi, although botanically related to the mushroom-toadstool group, are neither because they are not the right shape. Some species of these however are edible. The morel, one of the finest of all kinds, is still more distantly related but is often called a mushroom because of its cap-crowned stalk.

This year, fortunately for the health and happiness of some Los Angeles County residents, the first good rain of the season was a cold one and the mushroom-toadstool crop did not pop up readily to tempt the would-be experts. It should be noted that even botanists who have studied the fungus family cannot always readily distinguish between the poisonous and the edible varieties.

Rule-of-thumb tests such as those which involve turning a silver spoon black or peeling the cap to determine the color underneath are all completely unreliable. There are good and bad mushrooms but silver spoons and color are not the means of determining which are which. One edible mushroom found in the markets is dark brown to black when it is ripe. The deadliest of all kinds, the Amanitas, is pure white and is abundant. It lacks the warning taste which some of the other poisonous ones possess.

The Amanitas are extremely appetizing but a person would be a "long time dead" if he ate these "destroying angels."

If one has the urge to "take a chance," perhaps a run-back on the names by which some of them are commonly known will be a deterrent—Black Lily, Stinkhorn, Death Cap, Black Death and the Destroying Angel—are but a few.

"When in doubt, don't" applies to many situations but not to picking wild mushrooms. There should never be any doubt—it should always be DON'T. Those available through markets, of course, have been grown commercially and are perfectly safe.

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